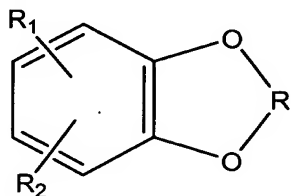


IN THE CLAIMS

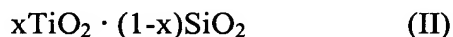
Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the hydroxylation of an aromatic compounds containing compound comprising a heterocyclic system ~~having general~~ represented by formula (I) :



(I)

wherein R represents a C₁-C₄ (iso)alkylene radical, ~~whereas and~~ R₁ and R₂, ~~the same or different,~~ independently represent a hydrogen atom or a CH₃ radical, or a C₁-C₂ alkoxyl, ~~which comprises said method comprising~~ directly hydroxylating said ~~compounds having general compound represented by~~ formula (I) with H₂O₂ in the presence of a zeolitic catalyst ~~having general represented by~~ formula (II):



wherein x is a number ranging from 0.0001 to 0.04, ~~preferably from 0.01 to 0.025.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the zeolitic catalyst is used with a particle size ranging from 1 to 1000 μm, ~~preferably from 5 to 100 μm,~~ or in the form of pellets.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, ~~claim 1 or 2,~~ wherein ~~in the product having general formula (I),~~ R is a methylene radical ~~whereas and~~ R₁ and R₂ are two hydrogen atoms.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the hydroxylation reaction is carried out in the presence of one or more solvents or directly in mass by feeding hydrogen peroxide, optionally diluted with H₂O, to a suspension of catalyst in the substrate.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 4, wherein the solvent is at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of:

[[-]] aliphatic alcohols, ~~in particular C₁-C₁₀-linear, branched or cyclic alcohols~~;

[[-]] linear, branched or cyclic aliphatic ketones, with a number of carbon atoms ranging from 3 to 12;

[[-]] linear, branched or cyclic saturated aliphatic hydrocarbons with a number of carbon atoms ranging from 5 to 12;

[[-]] esters selected from dialkyl carbonates wherein the alkyl group ~~contains~~ comprises from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and esters of carboxylic acid having the formula CH₃-COO-R' wherein R' represents a C₁-C₄ radical;

[[-]] linear, branched or cyclic aliphatic ethers, with a number of carbon atoms ranging from 3 to 12; and

[[-]] aliphatic nitriles having the formula R"-CN, wherein R" represents a C₁-C₄ alkyl radical.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the catalyst is used in batch reactions, in concentrations, with respect to the substrate, ranging from 1 to 50% by weight.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the claims from 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in continuous, feeding hydrogen peroxide and the substrate on a layer of catalyst or by passing the reagents through a fixed bed of catalyst in the form of pellets.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the H_2O_2 reagent is used in an aqueous solution with concentrations ranging from 1 to 60% by weight.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the previous claims,~~ claim 1, wherein the molar ratio H_2O_2 /substrate varies from 0.01 to 0.5, ~~preferably from 0.1 to 0.3.~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the oxidation reaction is carried out at a temperature ranging from 10 to 100°C , ~~preferably from 40 to 80°C .~~